

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: E. Claeys

Attorney Docket No.: ARNO118771

Application No.: 10/069,866

Filed: February 26, 2002

Title: STRENGTHENING LAYER FOR USE IN COMPOSITES TO BE FORMED
BY MEANS OF VACUUM TECHNIQUE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Seattle, Washington 98101

July 1, 2002

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

Please amend the above-identified application as indicated below.

In the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1-20 as follows, and add Claims 21-32 as shown below.

1. (Amended) A strengthening layer for composites comprising a resin to be formed by means of a vacuum technique, comprising:

a strengthening material; and

a plurality of transport threads of substantially round and substantially form-retaining cross-section for guiding the resin therealong wherein said threads lie substantially in the direction of the resin transport.

2. (Amended) The strengthening layer as claimed in claim 1 wherein the transport threads lie in the same plane as the rest of the strengthening material.

3. (Amended) The strengthening layer as claimed in claim 1 wherein the transport threads lie against one or both sides of the strengthening layer.

4. (Amended) The strengthening layer as claimed in claim 1 wherein the strengthening material takes at least partly the form of endless threads lying substantially parallel adjacently of each other.

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